



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



February 16, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) remains ever vigilant in our efforts to reduce crime in our communities. As you are aware, our Operation Safe Streets investigators, Gang Enforcement Teams, and Community Oriented Policing Teams have achieved great success in depressing the scourge of gang violence through suppression, prevention, intervention, and technology. These efforts have also resulted in a marked reduction in homicides to the lowest level seen in more than two decades.

The Department's Homicide Bureau investigated 272 cases in 2009; 227 of these cases occurred within areas policed by the Department and 45 were investigated on behalf of independent policing agencies. This is the lowest number of cases since 1975 and it marks a 15 percent reduction over the 2008 figure. Gang-related murders were reduced from 185 cases in 2008 to 146 cases in 2009 (131 occurring in the Department's policing area and 15 investigated on behalf of independent policing agencies), a 21 percent reduction. This is the fifth consecutive year gang-related homicides have fallen. The overall homicide reduction in the unincorporated areas of the County was particularly dramatic, as we saw a decrease from 155 cases in 2008 to 107 cases in 2009, a 31 percent reduction.

Through the diligent effort of Homicide Bureau investigators, 127 of the homicides which occurred in 2009 were solved within the calendar year. This 47 percent solve rate will increase throughout 2010 as more 2009 cases currently under investigation are solved.

*A Tradition of Service*

February 16, 2010

The tremendous success of our efforts in 2009 is a tribute to the hardworking men and women of this Department, as well as the support and partnership your Board has provided in making public safety a top priority. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Chief Willie J. Miller, Detective Division, at (323) 526-5165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF